

## Obituary.

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REDMOND BARRY, K.C.M.G., M.A., LL.D., T.C.D.

SIR REDMOND BARRY was a native of Glanworth, in the county of Cork, Ireland, and was born in 1813. He emigrated to Australia in 1839, immediately after being called to the Irish bar. He went first to Sydney, but did not remain there, and came to Melbourne when Mr. Latrobe was then Superintendent; Victoria being at that time only a province of New South Wales.

In 1842 he was appointed commissioner of the newly-formed Court of Requests, an office he held for several years. In 1850 he became Solicitor-General, and a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils. In 1851 he was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court, a position he continued to hold up to the time of his death. At various periods he acted as Chief Justice, and on two occasions he administered the government of the colony. In 1860 he was knighted, and in 1876 he received the distinction of K.C.M.G.

His name will always be illustrious in the history of Victoria, from his association with the University and the Public Library, of both of which institutions he may be said to have been the founder. He was the Chancellor of the former and chairman of the trustees of the latter. The extraordinary progress of these institutions is, in large measure, due to his strong interest in them; and during the two visits he paid to Europe and America, he never lost an opportunity of making known their claims to attention.

He was the first President of the Victorian Institute, which was commenced in 1854, and which afterwards, uniting with the Philosophical Society, helped to form the Philosophical Institute, now the Royal Society of Victoria. He was, at various periods, a member of the council of this body, and at all times exhibited a sincere regard for its welfare.

In all matters relating to the higher education, and to the fine arts and their influence upon society, Sir Redmond Barry stood foremost in this colony. He was himself a man of advanced literary culture; and to his influence, his example, and his unwearied efforts, much of the social progress of this colony is due.

He died at East Melbourne on the 23rd of November, 1880, aged sixty-seven.

## ALEXANDER KENNEDY SMITH, C.E., M.L.A.

MR. SMITH was born in Cauldmill, Roxburghshire, Scotland, in 1824, and was trained as an engineer. He was actively employed in his profession, both in Scotland and England, up to the time of his leaving for this colony in 1854, whither he came with the appointment of engineer to the Melbourne Gas Company, then only recently formed. His first occupation in Victoria, therefore, was to superintend the building of the works of that Company. Shortly after his arrival, he competed successfully for the prize offered by the City Council for the best plan for disposing of the refuse of the city. In the same year he joined earnestly in the volunteer movement, and maintained his connection with the volunteer force up to the time of his decease. He was a Fellow of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, and he joined the Philosophical Institute of Victoria soon after its formation.

After ceasing his connection with the Melbourne Gas Company, he was extensively and actively engaged in the construction of many other public works throughout both this and the neighbouring colonies. He was sixteen years a member of the Melbourne City Council, and he filled the office of mayor in 1875-6. From 1877 to his death he represented East Melbourne in the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Smith took a consistent interest in all sanitary questions, and all matters generally relating thereto, and he contributed to this society, and to the periodicals of this colony, many papers of high practical value, both on this and on other subjects connected with his profession. He occupied an official position in the Royal Society for many years, having been variously its treasurer, vice-president, and member of council, from the year 1859.

He died at his residence, Studley Park, on the 16th of January, aged fifty-six.

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 HENRY SAMUEL PATCHING.

MR. PATCHING was the son of Captain H. Patching, the highly respected master of a well-known steamer trading between Australian ports. He was born at Launceston, Tasmania, in October, 1854, but came to this colony at an early age, and was educated at St. Paul's School, in this city. His scientific leanings

showed themselves when a boy, and he took up ardently the subject of chemistry, to which he applied himself with much enthusiasm, and eventually adopted as his occupation that of a manufacturing chemist. His connection with the Royal Society brought him into much congenial companionship, and when, two years ago, it was desired to revive Section A, this reorganisation of the departmental proceedings of the Society evoked from him such a marked expression of interest that he was appointed honorary secretary. The earnest manner in which he subsequently performed the duties of this office made it certain that if he had lived, he would have done much to aid in developing the usefulness of this section.

He died at Emerald Hill on the 7th February, 1881, aged twenty-six.

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#### MR. THOMAS HIGINBOTHAM, M.I.C.E.

MR. HIGINBOTHAM was a native of Dublin. He learned the rudiments of his profession in the Royal Dublin Society House, and, about the year 1838-39, he went to London and entered the office of Sir William Cubitt. In 1853 his brother, now Mr. Justice Higinbotham, came out to this colony, and he followed him in 1857.

In January, 1858, he was appointed by Captain Clarke, C.E., Inspector-General of Roads for the colony.

All our lines of railways from 1860 to 1878 were made under Mr. Higinbotham's supervision, the value of whose ability became more and more apparent as time rolled away. Under his *régime* the cost of constructing railways was reduced to less than £5000 per mile. He played a part in the inquiry with regard to the efficiency of the Malmsbury Reservoir, and it will be remembered that this terminated in the dismissal of the other engineers employed.

He always opposed any effort to alter the gauge of our railways. He carried his point, and afterwards he received the thanks of all persons concerned. In 1874 he left the colony to inspect the British, Continental, and American railways, and on returning, after two years, he presented a valuable report on the construction of cheap lines. On the 8th of February he was dismissed, with other victims of Black Wednesday. He was, however, restored to his position of Engineer-in-Chief on the occasion of the Service

Ministry coming into power. His re-instatement gave great satisfaction, which it was believed no future government would attempt to disturb. His death was sudden, and he expired in the night, at the age of 60 years, at the residence of his brother, Mr. Justice Higinbotham, at Brighton, 5th September, 1880. He was much esteemed by his friends, and was conspicuous for his invincible good temper and courtesy.

Mr. Higinbotham was a member of the Society for many years, and always showed a large interest in its welfare.

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